

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly rewrite Claims 1-10 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for producing an alcohol which is generated by oxidation of an alkane comprising:

(A) culturing an *Escherichia coli* strain at a temperature between 20 and 30°C, wherein said *Escherichia coli* strain expresses a DNA comprising the Component A, B, and C genes of soluble-type MMO of *Methylococcus capsulatus*,

(B) contacting cells of said *Escherichia coli* strain or a processed product of cells of said *Escherichia coli* strain with an alkane to convert the alkane into an alcohol, wherein said processed product is selected from the group consisting of cells treated with acetone, lyophilized cells, a cell-free extract prepared from the the cells treated with acetone, a cell-free extract prepared from or the lyophilized cells, a cell-free extract prepared from or live cellssaid *Escherichia coli* cells, a fractionation product such as a membrane fraction fractionated from the cell-free extract, and an immobilized product of the *Escherichia coli* cells, a cell-free extract, and or a fractionation product, and

(C) recovering the alcohol,
wherein said alkane has between 1 and 8 carbon atoms.

2-8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously presented) The method for producing an alcohol according to claim 8, wherein said alkane is methane, and said alcohol is methanol.

10. (Currently amended) The method for producing an alcohol according to claim 1, wherein said DNA ~~is selected from the group consisting of:~~

~~—— (a) —— a DNA comprisingcomprises~~ the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5,
and

~~—— (b) —— a DNA which hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5~~
~~under stringent conditions comprising washing with 0.1 x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 60°C.~~